

Serial No. 10/553,379  
Atty. Doc. No. 2003P05901WOUS

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REMARKS

Applicants have cancelled claims 5 and 6 and amended claim 7, 8 and 10 and added new claim 11. Thus, claims 7 - 11 are presented for examination. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Request For Allowance:

The Examiner has indicated that claims 7-9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have rewritten claims 7 and 8 in independent form as recommended by the Examiner. Claim 9 was not amended as it depends from allowable claim 7. In light of the above mentioned amendments, Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 7-9.

Response to rejections under Section 102:

Claims 5, 6, and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), the Examiner contending that these claims are anticipated by Bochum (DE 100 16 900 A1), Hisato et al. (US 6,378,501 B1) or Musser et al. (US 5,771,861).

Applicants have amended claim 10 to include the limitations presented in allowable claims 8 and 9. As such, Applicants respectfully request allowance of amended claim 10.

Discussion of New Claim 11:

Applicants have added new claim 11. Claim 11 is essentially the limitation of cancelled claim 6 but claim 11 depends from allowable claim 7. Applicants respectfully request allowance for claim 11 based on its dependency from allowable claim 7.

In light of the above mentioned remarks, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections and rejections and respectfully request allowance of claims 7-11.

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Conclusion

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For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the objections and rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims. Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this paper. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 4/11/07

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